

UNITED STATES SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN that I, LISE KING, a citizen of the United States, having an address of 10 Farmview Road, Port Washington, NY 11050, have invented certain new and useful improvements in a

PET STROLLER

of which the following is a specification.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of United States Patent Application No. 10/663,465, filed on September 16, 2003, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/411,366 filed September 17, 2002.

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a stroller for use in transporting small animals. In particular, the invention relates to a collapsible pet enclosure that is attachable to a collapsible frame with wheels for transporting the pet.

2. The Prior Art

It is often desirable to take one's pet along for a stroll around one's neighborhood, both as a diversion for the pet and as exercise for the owner. Larger pets are often walked on leashes, also giving the pet exercise. Smaller pets such as house cats are generally not "walked" because they do not need enforced exercise and are usually trained to

use a litter box. However, many owners still desire to give these pets fresh air and entertainment and would like to take such pets on walks. However, due to their small size, this is not practical or safe.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore desirable to provide a safe and comfortable environment in which a pet can be walked with the owner.

This and other objects are accomplished by a stroller for a pet, comprising a frame having two sides, a bottom, at least three wheels and a handle for pushing the frame, and a collapsible pet enclosure adapted to be mounted within the frame and to hold a pet, so that the frame can be pushed along a surface with the pet riding in the stroller.

The frame is preferably made of metal tubing that is welded or screwed together. There are preferably four wheels, two in front and two in back. The wheels are preferably rubber and the front wheels are mounted so that they can rotate sideways, for steering the stroller around a

corner. The frame is preferably collapsible, and the wheels are preferably removable, to allow for replacement of the wheels when they become worn.

The bottom of the frame comprises a solid tray for supporting the pet enclosure.

The pet enclosure is similar to that disclosed in United States Patent No. 6,688,256, the disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference.

The pet enclosure comprises a plurality of frame pieces connected via flexible netting. The frame pieces each comprise a semicircular hoop and a cross-bar extending between the two legs of the frame at the bottom. The frame piece could also have other shapes, such as rectangular, triangular, etc., as long as it provides a sufficient cross-section for the animal to move. The frame pieces are preferably made of a strong, weather resistant material, such as aluminum, steel or heavy plastic.

The hoop portion is covered in a netting material, which allows light and air through, but cannot be easily torn by an animal's teeth or claws. A suitable material for this purpose is fish netting, which is a wide-weave nylon net material. Other materials could also be used. The frame pieces are arranged parallel with each other in a line, and covered by the netting material, to form an oblong container. The bottom of the enclosure is covered in a durable fabric, which cannot be torn by the animal's claws, but which forms a comfortable surface for the animal to rest on.

At one end of the enclosure, there is a door piece attached, to let the animal in and out. The door is preferably formed of one of the frame pieces. The face of the frame is covered by netting and is pivotally attached along the crossbar to the end frame piece. The top of the door is then releasably secured to the top of the end frame piece. To let the animal in and out, the top of the door is released and the door folds down to open the enclosure. The door could also be secured by a zipper around the entire circumference of the door. In a preferred embodiment, both

ends of the pet enclosure have doors. The doors preferably open downward, to allow for easy egress of the pet.

The netting is preferably attached to the frame pieces via rope or string that is wrapped through the holes in the netting and around each frame piece. Other means of attachment could also be used, such as adhesives, rivets, binding, etc.

One half of the length of the enclosure is also preferably covered in a durable, water resistant fabric, thus providing a covered space for the animal to sit in the event of inclement weather. The enclosure is preferably about 26 inches long, with 13 inches being covered in the fabric and the remaining 13 inches being open with just the netting covering the frame. This allows the pet to retreat into the covered area when it is nervous or excited. The rear wall of the enclosure, which is covered by the fabric, preferably has a window in it, so the pet can look out while underneath the covered portion.

The enclosure is preferably equipped with at least one handle on the top of the enclosure, so that the pet can be easily carried while in the enclosure. This is convenient for areas where it would not be convenient to push the stroller, such as in a narrow aisle or up a step. The stroller in this case can be collapsed and carried as well.

There is preferably at least one pocket on the back of the enclosure, to provide a convenient place to store accessories, such as a leash, water bottle, treats, etc.

The bottom of the enclosure is preferably padded to provide a comfortable cushion for the pet.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other objects and features of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description considered in connection with the accompanying drawings. It is to be understood, however, that the drawings are designed as an illustration only and not as a definition of the limits of the invention.

In the drawings, wherein similar reference characters denote similar elements throughout the several views:

FIG. 1 shows a perspective view of the frame according to the invention;

FIG. 2 shows a perspective view of the pet enclosure according to the invention; and

FIG. 3 shows a perspective view of the pet enclosure mounted in the frame; and

FIG. 4 shows a rear view of the pet enclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now in detail to the drawings, FIG. 1 shows the frame 10 according to the invention. Frame 10 comprises a bottom section 12 supporting a tray 15, side rails 11 and rear rails 13, which are connected to a handle 14. There are four wheels 16 rotatably mounted to frame 10 to allow frame 10 to roll along a surface. Wheels 16 are

preferably rubber and are removable, so that they can be replaced if worn. Frame 10 is preferably made of metal tubing but other materials could be used. Frame 10 is collapsible so that it can be easily carried. There is a brake 17 mounted to at least one of the rear wheels to prevent the wheels from moving when stopped. Brake 10 is activated when depressed by the user's foot and is released by lifting brake 17 upwards.

FIG. 2 shows animal enclosure 20 according to the invention. Enclosure 20 comprises a plurality of metal frame components comprising a rounded hoop portion 21 and a crossbar 22. Netting 23 is mounted around the hoop portions and a heavy fabric 25 is mounted on crossbars 22 to form the bottom of enclosure 20. The bottom of enclosure 20 is preferably padded to create a comfortable environment for the pet. Enclosure 20 is collapsible by bringing all of frame components together. A fabric cover 24 is mounted over at least some of the frame components to protect an animal from sun or precipitation. There are handles 29 mounted to the top of enclosure 20 to allow enclosure 20 to be easily carried when not mounted on frame 10.

There is a door 26 mounted onto each end of enclosure 20 to let the animal in and out of enclosure 20. Door 26 is made of one of the frame components 21 covered in netting 23. Door 26 is secured to enclosure 20 via string 28 or a zipper. Door 26 opens downward so that the pet can easily exit the enclosure. Other securing devices could also be used.

As shown in FIG. 3, enclosure 20 is mounted in frame 10 by placing enclosure 20 on tray 15. Tray 15 is made of stiff and durable material and is made to hold the weight of enclosure 20 and a small animal. Side rails 11 prevent enclosure 20 from falling off of frame 10 during use. During use, the animal can sit comfortably either out in the open air or inside the tent formed from cover 24. The stroller according to the invention could be made in many different sizes, but a preferable size for the enclosure is 26 inches in length and 16 inches in height. The frame 10 is preferably about 16 inches wide and 26 ½ inches long and has a handle height of about 39 inches.

FIG. 4 shows rear view of pet enclosure 20, showing door 27. Door 27 is covered in the same fabric as cover 24, and has a window 31 made of mesh material, to let in light and air and to allow the pet to see out. Door 27 also contains a pocket 30 for holding supplies such as a water bottle, leash, cell phone, etc. Door 27 is secured via a string 32. Door 27 opens downward. Other securing methods could also be used.

The invention is especially useful because both the frame and the enclosure are easily collapsible for transporting, and the enclosure can be used separately as a pet carrier, without having to remove the pet from the enclosure. It provides a safe and comfortable environment for small pets during traveling.

Accordingly, while only a single embodiment of the present invention has been shown and described, it is obvious that many changes and modifications may be made thereunto without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.